[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: A SYSTEM FOR COLOUR COSMETIC SELECTION
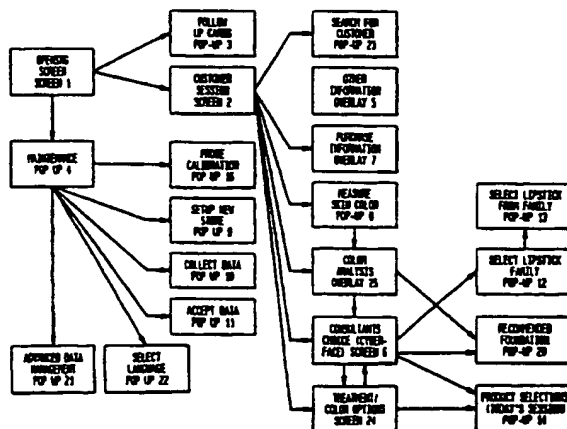
(57) Abstract: A method and system is provided for selecting a facial colour cosmetic scheme. Apparatus employed for the system includes a computer module with a colour monitor screen, a spectrophotometer for measuring a customer's skin colour and a device for transferring the measured colour information from the spectrophotometer to the computer module for entry into a program allowing visualisation of a model face with skin colour matched to that of the customer. The method includes measuring via spectrophotometer a customer's facial colour, transmitting information on that colour to the module for display on the model face appearing in the monitor, allowing the customer to select at least one colour for an area of the face to be covered by a cosmetic product, and then displaying the visualised model face with the selected colour. The system and method allow a customer to visualise the colour combination without the necessity of using the actual colour cosmetic on their own face for evaluation purposes.

IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:
— *With international search report.*

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

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A SYSTEM FOR COLOUR COSMETIC SELECTION

Field of the Invention

5

The present invention relates to a method and implementing apparatus for assisting a customer in selecting colour cosmetic products.

10   **BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION & PRIOR ART**

Colour cosmetics are highly personal to an individual. An optimum shade is selected having relevance to a customer's skin coloration and to a colour fancied by the customer.

15

Assistance in the selection of an optimal colour shade is available to help the consumer. Clinque and Clarion have installed computers at sales counters for use by customers. Information on colour, shade, oiliness and other properties of a
20   customer's skin are punched into the computer which then determines the company's most closely matching product. Two major companies, Prescriptives (Division of Estee Lauder) and Visage (Division of Revlon) have for some time practiced a manual system for evaluating a subject's skin colour. The sales person is
25   trained through the use of match cards to identify a user's matching skin foundation. Unfortunately manual systems suffer from poor reproducibility. Extensive training must also be invested in a sales person.

30   German patent 41 10 299 C1 (Erdtmann) discloses the use of a facial sensor for reading skin property values and then utilising the measured values in selecting an optimum skin product. Subsequently, the information is sent to an automatic cosmetic

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dispensing system for blending selected additives to formulate the selected product.

U.S. Patent 5,622,692 (Rigg et al.) reports a system for
5   customising a facial foundation product at point of sale to a customer. Three essential elements are present. They include a skin analyser for reading skin properties, a programmable device receiving the reading and correlating it with an optimal formula and a formulation machine for preparing the facial foundation
10 product from various cosmetic chemical compositions. Technology described in this patent has commercially been embodied in Elizabeth Arden's Custom Colour system available for many years in major department stores.

15 Arden's system has been a significant advance in the art. However, it suffers from certain deficiencies, including the inability of customers to evaluate different colour cosmetics in the context of their own skin colouration, and in juxtaposition to combinations of different facial makeover products. Thus it would
20 be desirable to have visualised a lipstick and a foundation, eye shadow and/or blush on a colour interactive basis. Especially desirable would be to evaluate the interaction of the various colour cosmetics without actually having to place these on one's own face.
25
Accordingly, it is an advantage of the present invention to provide a system and apparatus for selecting a facial colour cosmetic scheme from a palette of different shades and makeup products without requiring the actual placement of these products
30 on the customer's face.

Another advantage of the present invention is to provide a system and apparatus for selecting a facial colour cosmetic scheme allowing rapid visualisation of different coloured makeup

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permutations on various areas of the face in a simultaneous manner.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides a method for selecting a facial cosmetic colour scheme, the method including:

- (i)   providing a computer module including a color monitor screen and a spectrophotometer;
- (ii)   measuring a customer's facial colour with the spectrophotometer;
- (iii)   transmitting information on the measured facial colour to the computer module for display of that colour on a model face generated on the monitor screen;
- (iv)   allowing the customer to select at least one area of the face to be coloured with a colour cosmetic product; and
- (v)   colouring the area of the model face with the selected colour.

Optionally, a further step may be added involving printing on paper the coloured display from step (v) appearing on the monitor. By this method, a customer can select eye shadow, eye liner, lipstick, lip liner, blush, foundation and/or powder with selected colours, at least some of the combination having been first evaluated on a model face generated on the computer monitor screen. A program controlling the colour and selection scheme can further be included to correlate a vendor's products which will achieve the selected colour palette.

According to a further aspect, the present invention provides a system for selecting a facial colour cosmetic scheme, the system including:

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(i)   a computer module connected with a colour monitor
        screen;

(ii)   a spectrophotometer for measuring skin colour;

(iii)   a mechanism for transfer of facial colour data
        obtained from measurements with the spectrometer over
        to the computer module and transmission onto the
        monitor screen; and

(iv)   an interactive program displayed on the monitor
        allowing the customer to select at least one colour
        for application to an area of a model face appearing
        on the monitor.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The various objects, features and advantages of the present
invention will become more readily apparent from consideration of
the following drawing in which:

        Fig. 1 shows a flow chart diagramming a program used in the
system of the invention for selecting facial colour cosmetic
schemes;

        Fig. 2 shows Screen 2 of the program;

        Fig. 3 shows Pop-Up Screen 3 of the program;

        Fig. 4 shows Pop-Up Screen 4 of the program;

        Fig. 5 shows Overlay 5 of the program;

        Fig. 6 shows Screen 6 of the program;

        Fig. 7 shows Overlay 7 of the program;

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Fig. 8 shows Pop-Up Screen 8 of the program;

Fig. 9 shows Pop-Up Screen 9 of the program;

Fig. 10 shows Pop-Up Screen 10 of the program;

Fig. 11 shows Pop-Up Screen 11 of the program;

Fig. 12 shows Pop-Up Screen 12 of the program;

Fig. 13 shows Pop-Up Screen 13 of the program;

Fig. 14 shows Pop-Up Screen 14 of the program;

Fig. 15 shows Overlay Screen 15 of the program;

Fig. 16 shows Pop-Up Screen 16 through 19 of the program;

Fig. 17 shows Pop-Up Screen 20 of the program;

Fig. 18 shows Pop-Up Screen 21 of the program;

Fig. 19 shows Pop-Up Screen 22 of the program;

Fig. 20 shows Pop-Up Screen 23 of the program;

Fig. 21 shows Screen 24 of the program;

Fig. 22 shows Overlay 25 of the program; and

Fig. 23 shows a printout of a stylised model face provided as a printout from the method according to the present invention including recommendation for various different types of colour cosmetics.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

5   Now it has been found that a customer can evaluate how different
     colour cosmetics can interact by first visualising different
     colours on different areas of the face through computerised
     painting of a model face upon a monitor screen. In this system a
     customer is allowed to select colours to be placed on different
10   areas of the model face. A reiterative procedure then occurs.
     This involves the customer selecting a colour, having the program
     paint the selected colour onto the stylised model face and then
     allowing the customer to evaluate the result. No longer must a
     customer actually try the product on his or her own face. A very
15   rapid and clean evaluation can occur through use of the visualised
     model face.

     A customer's actual facial colour can be measured by a
     spectrophotometer/colorimeter of a type having a visible light
20   source, such as light emitting diodes (LED), xenon-arc, tungsten-
     halogen and similar type in the wavelength range of 400-900 nm.
     The visible light source may form the sensor portion of the
     spectrophotometer/colorimeter.   Both visible and infrared
     wavelength light may be utilised in connection with the sensor
25   portion. Suitable skin analysers are commercially available from
     Minolta Camera Co. Ltd., Japan and from Colortec Associates.
     Actual skin colour normally is measured around neckline areas
     which are free of a customer's foundation or other cover-up
     cosmetics.

30
     Measurement starts by cleaning the areas preparatory to a reading.
     The spectrophotometer/colorimeter is then placed in proximity to
     the cleaned facial area. Visible light emitted in the 400-900 nm
     range by the device will be reflected off the skin surface and the

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reflective wavelength measured. It is recommended that at least five skin readings along the neck/jaw line region be taken. Total time for the reading requires approximately 30 seconds. A cable connecting the spectrophotometer/colorimeter to the computer

5   module transmits the measured information on L, a and b thereby inputting a customer's natural skin colour parameters into the database. Alternatively the measured values can be read by the measuring consultant directly off of the spectrophotometer/colorimeter and manually banked into the

10   computer module by typing the information on a linked keyboard.

By the term "computer module" is meant any programmable device capable of processing information. Normally these are personal computers.

15

Fig. 1 is a flow chart of a program according to one embodiment of this invention. After the opening screen, a user is introduced to Screen 2 known as the 'customer session'. Client information is obtained via this screen through either a swipe card, entry via a

20   keyboard or from a database. The screen remains active (buttons are available) when overlays are displayed. Fig. 1 provides a view of Screen 2.

A Pop-up Screen 3 next appears with comments and client

25   information to prompt follow-up calls. This screen can be used for contacting the client to remind them to visit the store when their cosmetic supply may be low. Fig. 3 illustrates the screen.

Pop-up Screen 4 covering 'Maintenance' is then available for

30   appearance. This pop-up screen has options for calibration and data handling. Fig. 4 sets forth the screen.

Other information is collected with Overlay Screen 5. The Overlay screen selects/changes information about skin, beauty habits, type

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and brand of products used. Overlay Screens 2 and the buttons on Screen 2 remain active. Fig. 5 describes Overlay Screen 5.

Screen 6 provides a 'Consultant's Choice'. This screen shows
5   effects of colour palette, using client's skin colour. Information on the client's skin colour is obtained through application of a hand-held spectrophotometer against areas of the face not likely to be covered by makeup. These areas include the neck and under chin areas. The cosmetic 'look' can either be
10   based on skin colour (skin recommendation), lipstick colour (colour family), or a specific look. Depending on selections, a list of typically five 'looks' is created, and selecting (another look) displays next look in the series. Fig. 6 sets forth Screen 6.

15

Purchase information is achieved in Overlay Screen 7. This screen with previous and current purchase information (overlay to screen 2) is ordered by visit date. It contains information from up to the last five visits. Purchase information includes number,
20   product type, product name and product number. Fig. 7 sets forth the purchase information screen.

Pop-up Screen 8 measures skin colour. It consists of a series of screens to assist an adviser with colour measurement. This
25   session is repeated three times. Fig. 8 depicts the Pop-up Screen 8.

Pop-up Screen 9 serves to obtain information for a new store. It is used by the installation team to correctly set up the store-
30   specific parameters. Fig. 9 describes the Pop-up Screen 9.

· Collection of data for the main office is found in Pop-up Screen 10. Data is placed in a store's outbox, and can then be transferred in three ways. These include: (1) remote computer can

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dial in and retrieve file from outbox; (2) transfer information to
a server automatically using PC-anywhere script; and/or (3) copied
to floppy disk and mailed to central site. Fig. 10 illustrates
the Pop-up Screen 10.

5

Pop-up Screen 11 copies data from other stores. It can accept
data in two ways. These include: (1) update using floppy supply
by the main office; or (2) use of PC/Anywhere script to retrieve
update file from main office outbox. Fig. 11 illustrates the Pop-
10   up Screen 11.

Pop-up Screen 12 allows selection of a colour lipstick family.
The customer advisor can either enter a specific lipstick number,
or choose a colour family, then choose a colour from the family.
15   The active colour palette will consist of individual palettes that
contain that lipstick. The advisor can also enter a specific look
(can be either from a previous visit or any of the available looks
in the palette). Fig. 12 describes the pop-up Screen 12.

20   Pop-up Screen 13 allows selection of lipstick from a colour family
(as selected from Pop-up Screen 12). If the lipstick is also in
the palette recommendation based on skin tone, the colour is put
first in the list, and (expert fit) is added to the name. Fig. 13
describes the Pop-up Screen 13.

25

Pop-up 14 shows product selections (treatments in cosmetic
colours) made during the present session. Product selections can
be made during colour viewing (Screen 6), treatment/product
options (Overlay 24) or Recommended Foundation (Pop-up Screen 20).
30   There also is a display of recommended looks. Fig. 14 describes
the Pop-up Screen 14.

Overlay Screen 15 is used to provide a snapshot of the type of
customer. For detail purchase history, Overlay 7 provides the

purchase information.   Included in this screen are key purchase
properties, group by type, over the past twelve months.   It is
automatically displayed for each customer.   Fig. 15 lists the
Overlay Screen 15.

5

Pop-up Screen 16 is a probe for calibration/routine and for
messages to calibrate probe.   Fig. 16 details the Pop-up Screens
16-19.

10   Pop-up Screen 20 is used to recommend the best foundation product
combination based on skin colour and product preferences.   Fig. 17
details the Pop-up Screen 20.

Pop-up Screen 21 is an advanced data management module.   This is
15   used by the main office.   Fig. 18 details the Pop-up Screen 21.

Pop-up Screen 22 relates to language selection.   Fig. 19 details
Pop-up Screen 22.

20   Pop-up Screen 23 is used to locate and activate a client.   If this
is a new client, the 'new' button is clicked to create the new
client file.   Fig. 20 details Pop-up Screen 23.

Screen 24 details treatment/colour/fragrance options showing all
25   the option products.   Fig. 21 details Screen 24.

Overlay 25 focuses on skin colour analysis allowing selection of
shade and tone.   Fig. 22 details the Overlay 25.

30   The foregoing description illustrates selected embodiments of the
present invention. In light thereof variations and modifications
will be suggested to one skilled in the art, all of which are
within the scope of this invention.

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CLAIMS:

1.   A method for selecting a facial colour cosmetic scheme, the
method comprising:

5   (i)   providing a computer module including a colour
                    monitor screen and a spectrophotometer;

          (ii)   measuring a customer's facial colour with the
                    spectrophotometer;

          (iii)   transmitting information on the measured facial
10   colour to the computer module for display of that
                    colour on a model face generated on the monitor
                    screen;

          (iv)   allowing the customer to select at least one area of
                    the face to be coloured with a colour cosmetic
15   product; and

          (v)   colouring the area of the model face with the
                    selected colour.

2.   The method according to claim 1 further comprising the steps
20   of printing in colour on paper the displayed model face via a
printer.

3.   The method according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein areas of
the face to be coloured are those selected from the lips,
25   eyelashes, eyelid, cheeks and combinations thereof.

4.   The method according to any of the preceding claims wherein
a program operated by the computer module stores information on a
vendor's products which will achieve the selected colour when
30   placed upon the selected area of the face.

.5.   A system for selecting a facial colour cosmetic scheme, the
system comprising:

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(i)   a computer module connected with a colour monitor
        screen;

(ii)   a spectrophotometer for measuring skin colour;

(iii)   a mechanism for transfer of facial colour data
        obtained from measurements with the spectrometer over
        to the computer module and transmission onto the
        monitor screen; and

(iv)   an interactive program displayed on the monitor
        allowing a customer to select at least one colour for
        application to an area of a model face appearing on
        the monitor.

FIG. 1
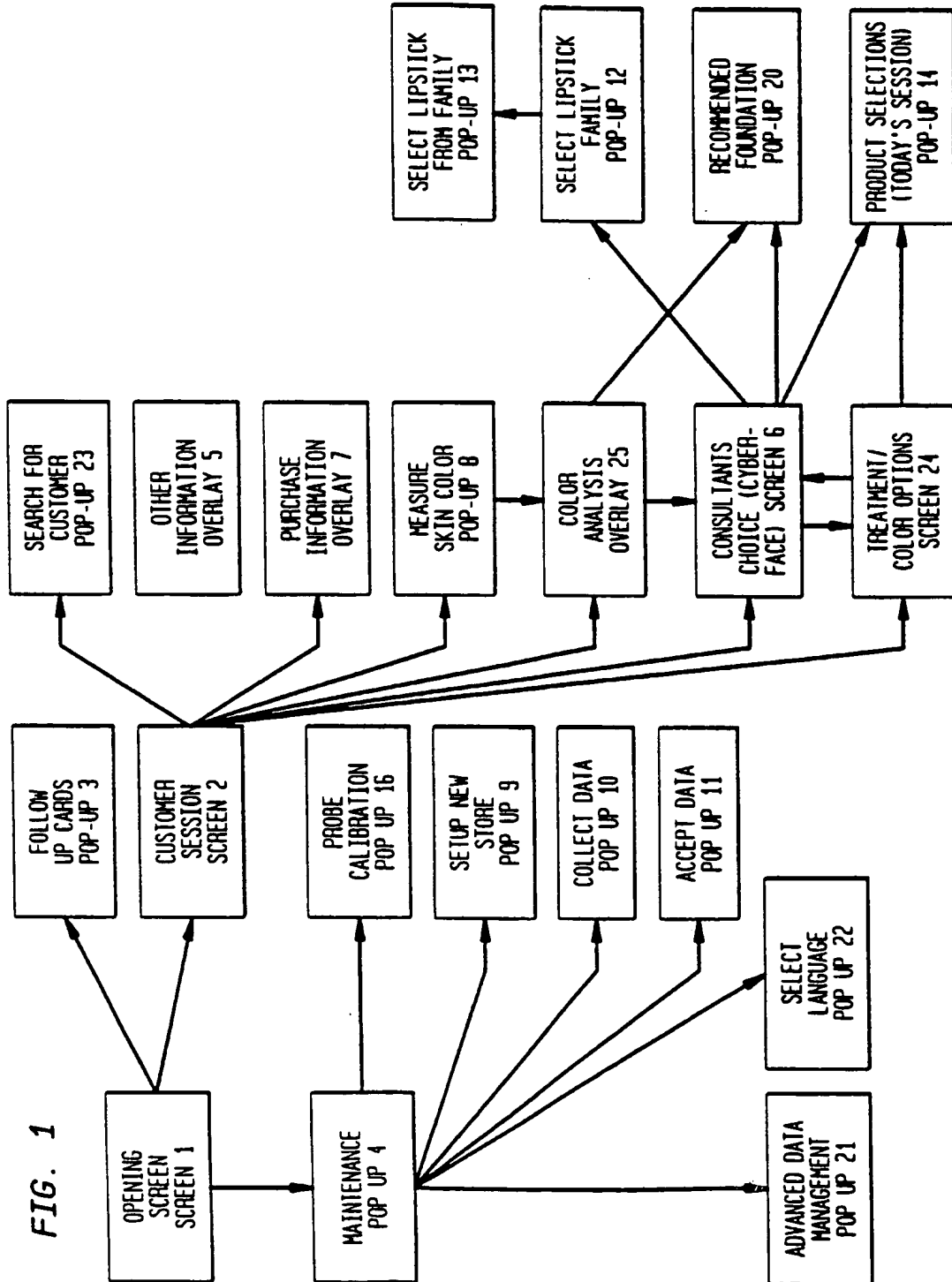
FIG. 2

```
Beauty #_____ Name:[_____]Customer #[_____]◇Verify Address and Cust Info!
Personal Information                                         [SEARCH]
Name                                                         [NEXT]
Last Name                                                    [PREVIOUS]
Address                                                      [CANCEL]
City                        State                            [CLOSE]
Zip Code        Telephone   Date of Birth   Day   Month
Profession
◇Regular Client      ◇Responds to Promotions    ◇Responds to Mailing
```

```
                                                    [OTHER INFORMATION]
                                                    [PURCHASE HISTORY]
        [Overlay area - not to scale]               [PURCHASE INFORMATION]
                                                    [PRODUCT OPTIONS]
                                                    [MEASURE SKIN COLOR]
                                                    [COLOR ANALYSIS]
                                                    [SHOW COLOR]
```

FIG. 3

```
Customer follow up cards
        With clients information
              List of Names        Information
                                   On
                                   Selected
                                   Customer


                                                   [] CALL COMPLETE
                                   [PRINT]
                                   [CLOSE]
```

FIG. 4

```
MAINTENANCE

[CALIBRATE SKIN READER]
[LANGUAGE]
[SET UP NEW STORE]
[COLLECT DATA FOR MAIN OFFICE]
[ACCEPT DATA FROM LOCAL STORES]
[ADVANCED DATA MANAGEMENT]
[CLOSE]
```

FIG. 5

OTHER INFORMATION

Skin Type	Age Profile	Beauty Habits	Fragrance	Other Brands
⊕ Sensitive	15-20	Make-up	Cologne	Biotherm
	20-30	Cleanser/Toner	Perfume	Channel
Normal to dry	30-40	Moisturizer	More than one	Clarins
Normal to oily	40-50	Special Treat.	Bath line	Clinique
Dry	50+	Sunscreens		Dior
Oily		Body Products		Estee Lauder
				H. Rubenstein
				Lancaster
				Lancome
				Shiseido
				YSL
				Other

Special Preferences of Needs:
Prefers fragrance free products

[Accept]

FIG. 6

(Customer Name)	(Date)
Cyberface Screen With look #, and individual color name	[ANOTHER LOOK] [SELECT LIPSTICK FAMILY] [CONSULTANT'S CHOICE] [PRODUCT OPTIONS] [FOUNDATION] PRODUCT SELECTIONS

FIG. 7

Purchase Information			
Today	1	JANE DOE	
(1) Lipstick	125	Purchased	
(1) Hydrolight	Bisque	Recommended	
(1) Mousse	Bisque	Not Appropriate	[Recommended]
			[Purchase]
			[Sample]
Date	905	JANE DOE	[Not Appropriate]
(2) Ceramide Complex		Sampled	[Remove]

Today		
Look 001	Plums	Recommended
Look 003	Reds	Recommended
Look 004	Naturals	Recommended

FIG. 8

```
MEASURE SKIN WITH COLOR READER

PRESS MEASURE TO RECORD COLOR FROM READER

OR ENTER L, A, B VALUES FROM REMOTE

          L=          A=          B=
          L=          A=          B=
          L=          A=          B=

COLOR READER IDENTIFICATION:_____

     Foundation Color Match:_____   [MEASURE]
                                      [ACCEPT]
                                      [CANCEL]
```

FIG. 9

```
                    Set up New Store

   Store Name      Store Number      City Number
  _____    _____   _____
 |           |  |               | |              |
 |_____|  |_____| |_____|

              Highlight to Select New Store

 Store          A
                B       |
                C       |
                D       |
                E       |
                F       V
                                       [ACCEPT]
                                       [CANCEL]
```

FIG. 10

```
┌─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┐
│                   Collect Data for Main Office                    │
│  ┌──────────────────────────────────┬──────────────────────────┐ │
│  │ Retrieve Monthly Data            │  │       January         │ │
│  │ To be sent to Main Office        │  │       February        │ │
│  │                                  │  │       March           │ │
│  │ Select Month(s) and press Collect│  │       April           │ │
│  │                                  │  │       May             │ │
│  │ Create Disk? Yes/No              │  ▼       June           │ │
│  │                                  ├──────────────────────────┤ │
│  │ Connect? Yes/No                  │              [COLLECT]   │ │
│  │                                  │              [CANCEL]    │ │
│  └──────────────────────────────────┴──────────────────────────┘ │
└─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┘
```

FIG. 11

```
┌─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┐
│                    Accept Data from Server                        │
│        Store Name        Store Number        City Number          │
│      ┌─────────────┬──────────────────┬────────────────────┐      │
│      │             │                  │                    │      │
│      └─────────────┴──────────────────┴────────────────────┘      │
│                  Highlight to Select New Store                    │
│  ┌──────────────────┬──────────────────────────────────────────┐ │
│  │ Available Stores │ A  │                                     │ │
│  │                  │ B  │                                     │ │
│  │                  │ C  │                                     │ │
│  │                  │ D  │                                     │ │
│  │                  │ E  ▼                                     │ │
│  │                  │ F  │                                     │ │
│  │                  ├──────────────────────────────────────────┤ │
│  │                  │                          [CONNECT]       │ │
│  │                  │                          [ACCEPT]        │ │
│  │ Copy Data from Disk? Yes/No                 [CANCEL]        │ │
│  └──────────────────┴──────────────────────────────────────────┘ │
└─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┘
```

FIG. 12

Lipstick Color Families

| Reds |
| Corals |
| Pinks |
| Naturals |
| Plums |

Enter Number of Lipstick

Enter Number of Look

[ACCEPT]
[CANCEL]

FIG. 13

Lipstick Family:Reds

022   Hollywood Red (Expert Fit)
033   Lush Red
244   Vintage
255   Gypsy
375   Baroque Red

[ACCEPT]
[CANCEL]

FIG. 14

```
┌─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┐
│                    Today's Product Selections                          │
│  ┌──────────────────────────────────────────────────┐                 │
│  │ (#) Product Type      Color                        │  [Recommended] │
│  │ ⊗ (1)Lipstick        121          Recommended      │  [Purchase]    │
│  │ ⊗ (2)Hydrolight      Bisque       Purchased        │  [Sample]      │
│  │ ⊗ (1)Mousse          Bisque       Recommended      │  [Not Appropriate] │
│  │                                                    │  [Remove]      │
│  │ ⊗ Look 321           Reds         Recommended      │  [Print]       │
│  │ ⊗ Look 496           Plums        Recommended      │                │
│  │                                                    │  [Accept]      │
│  │                                                    │                │
│  └──────────────────────────────────────────────────┘                 │
└─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┘
```

FIG. 15

Purchase History		
Last purchase:	Date	Jane Doe
Total purchases:	2 (Last)	12 (Past Year)
SkinCare (3)		
⊗(4) Ceramide Capsules ⊗(3) Millenium Cream ⊗(2) Perfection Cream	30 Jan 30 Nov 30 Nov	Purchased Purchased Purchased
Color (2)		
⊗(1) Flawless Finish (121) ⊗(1) Exceptional Lipstick (906)	30 Jan 30 Dec	Purchased Purchased
Fragrance (1)		
⊗(1) Sunflowers ⊗(1) Red Door	30 Oct 30 Sep	Purchased Purchased
Fragrance (1)		
⊗ Red Door ⊗ Exceptional Lipstick ⊗ Perfection Cream	30 Jan 30 Jan 30 Jan	Sampled Recommended Non-Appropriate

⊗ - Denotes product type icon

FIG. 16

Pop-up 16	Pop-up 17	Pop-up 18	Pop-up 19
Probe Calibration	Switch to Set Cal. Plate	Ready to Read Color Tile	Color Reading in Progress....
Probe Calibration Probe not calibrated! Warning: Skin Reader not calibrated - Continue anyway? (Y or N)	Turn color reader off and on. Reader display should read 'Set Cal. Plate'. Press (Enter) when ready! Cancel	Place Color Reader on the White Plate. Press (Enter) when ready!	Press button on color reader twice slowly To record calibration color Stop! Probe calibrated, OK to continue?
Enter	Enter	Enter	Continue

FIG. 17

Recommended Flawless Finish Foundation		
Product	Color	
Mousse	234	[Recommend]
Hydrolight	123	[Purchase]
Pressed Powder	Medium 2	[Sample]
		[Accept]

FIG. 18

Update Doors	Yes	No	
Update Product List	Yes	No	
Export new Clients	Yes	No	[Import Update File]
			[Create Update File]
Clean returns database	Yes	No	[Print Returns]
Delete entries more than	3 months		
	6 months		[Connect]
	9 months		[Close]
	12 months		

FIG. 19

Language Selection
[English]
[Spanish]
[French]

FIG. 20

Search for Customer	
Name:	
List of Names	Information On Selected Customer
	[ACCEPT] [NEW CUSTOMER] [CANCEL]

FIG. 21

Treatment/Color Product Options

Product	Color
Skin Illuminating Complex Millenium Night Millenium Energist	

[ ]Treatment
[ ]Color
[ ]Fragrance

[Recommend]
[Purchase]
[Sample]
[Not appropriate]

[What's New]

[ACCEPT]
[CANCEL]

Advertisement
Video

FIG. 22

Skin Color Analysis   Color Enhancements Options

Skin Color Analysis

[Lighten color]   [Recommend Foundation]
[Darken color]   [Show Colors]
                         [Close]

Tone (Golden/Red)

[Reduce Pink (add golden)]
[Reduce golden (add pink)]

Preferred Finish:
[ ] Matte   [ ] Natural

FIG. 23

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EYESHADOW
EYELINER
LIPSTICK
LIPLINER
BLUSH
FOUNDATION
POWDER

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7   G06T11/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7   G06T

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and. where practical, search terms used)

PAJ, EPO-Internal, WPI Data, IBM-TDB, INSPEC

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document. with indication. where appropriate. of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	EP 0 226 959 A (HORIKITA TSUKASA) 1 July 1987 (1987-07-01) page 2, line 26 -page 3, line 3 page 8, line 39 - line 56; figures 2,26 ---	1-3,5
Y	US 5 751 829 A (KUBO JON C ET AL) 12 May 1998 (1998-05-12) abstract column 17, line 56 -column 18, line 2 ---	1-3,5
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1999, no. 10, 31 August 1999 (1999-08-31) & JP 11 143352 A (ONISHI NETSUGAKU KOGYOSHO:KK), 28 May 1999 (1999-05-28) abstract ---	1-5

-/--

| X | Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. | X | Patent family members are listed in annex. |

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"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

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Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
28 September 2000	05/10/2000

Name and mailing address of the ISA	Authorized officer
European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040. Tx. 31 651 epo nl. Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Perez Molina, E

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